

PSALM 144:1-11


HANDS TRAINED FOR WAR

“Blessed be the LORD, my rock,
 who trains my hands for war,
 and my fingers for battle;
he is my steadfast love and my fortress,
 my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield and he in whom I take refuge,
 who subdues peoples under me.

“O LORD, what is man that you regard him,
 or the son of man that you think of him?
Man is like a breath;
 his days are like a passing shadow.

“Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down!
 Touch the mountains so that they smoke!
Flash forth the lightning and scatter them;
 send out your arrows and rout them!
Stretch out your hand from on high;
 rescue me and deliver me from the many waters,
 from the hand of foreigners,
whose mouths speak lies
 and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

“I will sing a new song to you, O God;
 upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,
who gives victory to kings,
 who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword.
Rescue me and deliver me
 from the hand of foreigners,
whose mouths speak lies
 and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”¹

aster Sunday, 1917, was observed on April 8th. Easter Monday that year was not observed by four divisions of Canadian troops stationed opposite the German Sixth Army. For weeks, Canadian artillery had intermittently bombarded German lines, aiming particularly to destroy the barbed wire strung in front of German defensive positions. British Engineers had tunnelled for days through the soft clay to extend tunnels beneath German fortifications. Canadian troops, varying in size from a squad to companies, had conducted raids against the German lines each night. These raids had resulted in the capture of numerous prisoners, generating considerable valuable intelligence. Simultaneously, German troops were raiding Canadian lines, capturing prisoners and gaining intelligence of their own. Troops knew that something momentous was about to take place, though they couldn't know where or when.

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Vimy Ridge had fallen under German control in October, 1914. From that time forward, it had been the scene of bitter battles. The French Tenth Army attempted to dislodge the Germans in May of 1915 and again in September of that same year, suffering 150,000 casualties in those efforts. The British XVII Corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng, relieved the French Tenth Army in February of 1916. Under the command of Byng were numerous British troops and the Canadian Corps, consisting of four Canadian divisions (including 97,184 Canadians). If the war would be brought to a conclusion, it was necessary that the German fortifications on Vimy Ridge would need to be taken. Accordingly, planning for the attack that would dislodge the Germans began in March of 1917.

Canadian troops under the command of British officers had distinguished themselves in earlier battles, including the Second Battle of Ypres. That conflict saw the first time that a former colonial force (the 1st Canadian Division) defeated a European power (the German Empire) on European soil. This battle marked the first time that the German forces employed gas. Despite the novel means of assault, the Canadians held their ground in the face of the gas attack, losing over five thousand men. Canadian troops had also been involved in the Second Battle of Artois, the Third Battle of Artois and the Battle of the Somme. Now, Canadian troops would be called upon to attack an impenetrable line of German defences known as Vimy Ridge.

It had been the desire of British and Canadian leaders to initiate the attack against the German lines on Easter Sunday. The French, however, objected, so the assaults would be delayed until Easter Monday, allowing the French to observe Easter. The attack began at 0530 on April 9, 1917, transforming Easter Monday into “Bloody Easter” for the Canadians. In wind, sleet and snow, an initial wave of more than 15,000 Canadians stormed the ridge, capturing most of the German positions by the afternoon of the first day. Three more days of intense fighting followed before the highest features of the ridge, “Hill 145” and the “Pimple,” were captured.

The battle, a defining moment for Canada, cost almost 4,000 Canadian lives and over 7,000 wounded. The horror of Vimy was recorded by the 2nd Division’s 6th Brigade (the “Iron Sixth,” composed of western Canadians) as they made their way into the fight early on the morning of the opening day. “Wounded men (were) sprawled everywhere in the slime, in the shell holes, in the mine craters, some screaming to the skies, some lying silently, some begging for help, some struggling to keep from drowning in (water-filled) craters, the field swarming with stretcher-bearers trying to keep up with the casualties.”² The Canadians were marked by “countless acts of sacrifice, as Canadians single-handedly charged machine gun nests or forced the surrender of Germans in protective dugouts. Hill 145 ... was captured in a frontal bayonet charge against machine-gun positions.”³

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was significant for Canada. This was the first time that all four Canadian divisions had fought together in the First World War. This battle provided the impetus for Prime Minister Borden to lead Canada to step out of the shadow of Great Britain, acting henceforth as the independent nation we know today. Canadians from the border with the United States and coast to coast fought together as a nation. The sacrifice and success of the Canadian divisions helped earn the nation a separate signature on the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war. Canada was recognised as a sovereign nation. Her military composed of citizen soldiers was recognised as brave, ferocious in battle and determined to be just in every engagement. Vimy Ridge is, for the nation we know today, a vital milestone.

² “Battle of Vimy Ridge” (art.), Historica Canada, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/vimy-ridge/>, accessed 7 April 2016

³ Ibid.

I do not want you to imagine that I am glorifying war; there is nothing glorious in war. However, in the midst of man's conflicts exceptional examples of the noblest characteristics of mankind—honour, courage and commitment, will be demonstrated. Canadians did exhibit such noble characteristics amidst the terrible carnage that arose from the conflict. Canadians are a peaceful people; but they can be ferocious when aroused.

Unquestionably, God's ideal for mankind is peace. However, sin marred the world that God created. With the advent of sin came the exaltation of "self"; in fact, it was our first mother's desire to exalt herself to the level of God that plunged the race into sin. As the self is exalted, conflict is inevitable.

Christians can anticipate conflict, primarily because we are not welcomed by the world. You are undoubtedly familiar with Jesus' warning to those who would follow Him. It is recorded in John's Gospel as He prepared His disciples for His passion. "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause'" [JOHN 15:18-25].

Add to this warning the warning issued by the Apostle to the Gentiles: "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived" [2 TIMOTHY 3:12, 13]. This cautionary statement is nothing less than an iteration of the earlier warnings Paul delivered to new believers from his first missionary journey. When the missionaries returned through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, their message sought to strengthen the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the Faith "and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God" [see ACTS 14:21, 22].

Though we cannot avoid conflict, we can control how we respond to the conflict. We can ensure that we react with courage and with control rather than responding with choler and chaos. We need not be victims; rather, we can be victors. Whether we will be a victim or a victor is made before trouble ever arises. Either we are looking to Christ the Lord, or we are depending on our own strength. We are either trained for conflict, or we react out of fear. Fear never results in a good outcome. Training, however, equips us for a godly response; and a godly response always displays a courageous spirit.

COURAGE ARISES FROM CONVICTION — In the **FIRST AND SECOND VERSES**, David has written:

"Blessed be the LORD, my rock,
who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle;
he is my steadfast love and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield and he in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples under me."

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David was a fugitive for perhaps ten years. After that, he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months before becoming king over all the tribes of Israel. When he at last he united the Kingdom, he had engaged in multiple battles, and he would fight many more. Though God had promised that David would be King over all Israel, years passed before the promise was fulfilled. Throughout the years, the life of the King was one extended conflict. However, God equipped His leader for the conflicts he faced, just as He will equip His people for the conflicts they must face. Thus, David did not fear what lay ahead. Repeatedly do we find David speak of his preparation for struggle. Here is one example.

“[The LORD] trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

...

“You equipped me with strength for the battle.”

[PSALM 18:34, 39a]

Reading the 18th Psalm, it is evident that David is speaking of far more than physical fighting. The king writes,

“You have given me the shield of Your salvation,
and Your right hand supported me,
and Your gentleness made me great.”

[PSALM 18:35]

David could look back knowing that God has stood with him throughout every battle. Likewise, when we are called to engage in spiritual warfare, we can be confident that God will be with us. Someone has said—correctly, I fear—that evangelicals are sprinters and not distance runners. We are quick to enter the fray, choosing to battle even over issues of no great importance. Unfortunately, many do not have the stomach for protracted conflict. Most of the battles we will face of followers of the Christ will extend for long periods of life. What is necessary if we will stand firm is conviction that we are on the winning side of life.

Let me point you to several promise given by our conquering Saviour revealing that we are on the winning side of life. When our Master gave us our marching orders for this present age, He promised, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” [MATTHEW 28:20b].

You will no doubt have claimed the promise given when Jesus was teaching us how to deal with conflict in the assembly. Jesus promised, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” [MATTHEW 18:20]. Certainly, when the saints gather to conduct the work of the Kingdom, we may be assured that the Master is there with us.

Again, we have this promise from the Master when He challenged the disciples to follow Him, “If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also” [JOHN 12:26a].

What a comfort we have in the promise Jesus gave as He prepared His disciples for His exodus. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” [JOHN 14:3]. In this context, remember that our Master also promised, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” [JOHN 14:18]. Underscore that thought in your minds, Jesus Himself is with His people.

As He presented His High Priestly prayer, Jesus asked the Father to give Him those who were appointed to believe. Remember the request, “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world” [JOHN 17:24].

This past Tuesday evening our study through Acts focused on Paul’s ministry in Corinth. I was especially encouraged when I read of the Apostle’s fear arising from the threat of attack by religious zealots in Corinth. As the Apostle struggled, the Lord encouraged him while he slept. The Lord spoke to His servant in a vision, “Keep it up and don’t let anyone intimidate or silence you. No matter what happens, I’m with you and no one is going to be able to hurt you. You have no idea how many people I have on my side in this city”⁴ [ACTS 18:10]. I would encourage God’s people to seize this promise for our own community. “Well,” you may object, “maybe God doesn’t have many in this city.” Are you quite certain about that? Do you know that to be a fact? I’m content to believe that God says of our community, “I have many in this city.” Because that is true, let each believer draw fresh courage because the Lord is with us. Knowing this, let each believer speak boldly in His Name and let each Christian plead that His grace be showered on our community so that many will turn to righteousness even in this day.

Another promise of God that is too often overlooked reads, “[God] has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say,

‘The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?’”

[HEBREWS 13:5b, 6]

There is not a deficit of courage in this congregation. We need conviction—conviction that Jesus is Master! Conviction that the Risen Lord has conquered death, hell and the grave! Conviction that the One who rose from the dead shall bring us through to the other side! Conviction that we are immortal until He calls us home! Conviction that we are alive in the Risen Son of God! Conviction that He has appointed us to fulfil His will! Conviction that He is alive and that because He lives, we, too, shall live! Conviction that He will redeem even our lost children! Conviction that this same Jesus is coming again! When we hold such convictions concerning Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, we can do all things through Him who strengthens us.

In the days when Isaac Watts proclaimed the Word of God, the English Dissenters suffered great persecution. These Dissenting Churches, known as Free Churches, had separated from the official state church, the Anglican Church. Throughout much of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, believers belonging to these churches were imprisoned because of their convictions.

As was true for many godly men and women, a learned deacon in a dissenting Congregational Church in Southampton, England, was imprisoned because of his non-conformist beliefs; he was still in prison when his son was born. The child grew up in that dissenting congregation, ultimately adopting his father’s courage to stand firm on the Word of God. In time, the young man became a preacher of the Word. In 1724, that preacher delivered a message based on 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13, a message he had entitled “Holy Fortitude, or Remedies Against Fears.” As part of his message, that young preacher wrote the following verses:

⁴ Eugene H. Peterson, **The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language** (NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO 2005)

Am I a soldier of the cross? A foll'wer of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause or blush to speak His name?
Must I be carried to the skies on flow'ry beds of ease,
while others fought to win the prize and sailed thru bloody seas?
Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace, to help me on to God?
Sure I must fight if I would reign—Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word.
Thy saints in all this glorious war, shall conquer though they die;
They see the triumph from afar, and seize it with their eye.⁵

Later, Isaac Watts added another similar verse, which is not often sung today.

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend His cause;
Maintain the honour of His Word, the Glory of His cross.

What great victories will be won when God's people are imbued with conviction! What powerful conversions will be witnessed when God's people are armed with conviction! May God, the Living God, fill His people with confidence and power! If Canadian troops were deemed so powerful in combat when they were convinced of the rightness of their cause, how much greater will be the power of God's holy people when they serve in the conviction of this holy Faith. We know that "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" [HEBREWS 11:1].

How powerful is the message delivered by a Christian when that believer speaks in power and conviction! This was the Apostle's testimony in what is arguably his earliest missive to have been included in the canon of Scripture. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come" [1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10].

And this is the message we deliver to this day. This is the message that still transforms lives, enables believers to become imitators of the Lord, to stand firm in the face of opposition, to spread the Word of life with power and to rescue sinners from the sentence of death. This is the convicting message that redeemed us and that will redeem our children.

⁵ Isaac Watts, "Holy Fortitude, or Remedies against Fear: The First Part," Sermon XXXI **The Works of the Rev. Isaac Watts, vol. 1** (Edward Baines; William Baynes; Thomas Williams and Son; Thomas Hamilton; Josiah Conder, Leeds, London 1812) 424-438

COURAGE LEADS TO CONFIDENCE — David writes in the **THIRD THROUGH THE EIGHTH VERSES**,

“O LORD, what is man that you regard him,
or the son of man that you think of him?
Man is like a breath;
his days are like a passing shadow.
“Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down!
Touch the mountains so that they smoke!
Flash forth the lightning and scatter them;
send out your arrows and rout them!
Stretch out your hand from on high;
rescue me and deliver me from the many waters,
from the hand of foreigners,
whose mouths speak lies
and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”

The one who holds convictions, the one who has walked with Christ the Master, is one who will be known for confidence. However dark the sky may appear that one knows who holds the future. Though evil seems to be winning the battle, the one who lives by godly conviction knows that the battle belongs to the Lord.

Standing before a mighty champion of the Philistines, a young man was armed with but a staff and a slingshot. He selected five smooth stones from a brook over which he had to cross. The pagan champion spoke with disdain, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” Then the mighty warrior cursed the young man, calling on his gods, before avowing, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”

However, the young man before the giant spoke with confidence, “You come to me with a sword and a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the Name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hand” [1 SAMUEL 17:40-47]. And God did deliver the pagan champion into the hand of the young lad named David.

On another occasion, fierce enemies united to attack the people of God—Moabites, Ammonites and some Meunites. The king of Israel gathered his people before the LORD God, pleading for deliverance from enemies too strong to be defeated. His prayer is humbling, to say the least. Imagine a Prime Minister of our nation calling for a day of fasting and prayer. Then, imagine that this Prime Minister gathers all the Premiers and leaders of the various governmental agencies to unite in prayer. Then, imagine that this Prime Minister should lead the nation in prayer, concluding with this confession, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You” [see 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-11]. It is unimaginable that a leader would confess openly that he or she did not know what to do! Nevertheless, this was the abject confession of Jehoshaphat when he led the nation in prayer before God.

God answered by sending a prophet; and what a message that prophet brought to the nation. The Spirit of the Lord enrobed that prophet, impelling him to speak these powerful words, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s’” [2 CHRONICLES 20:15].

How many battles have we fought and lost because we thought we had to trust our strength? The battle is not ours; the battle is God’s. Your children don’t believe, though you’ve employed every stratagem you could conceive! The battle is not yours but God’s! You wonder how you will pay the massive bills that loom before you, how you can afford the necessary treatment that is mandated by your condition. The battle is not yours but God’s! You have problems—great problems; you face giants at work, giants in the home, giants in your personal life and you don’t know how you can ever succeed. The battle is not yours but God’s!

I hold these convictions, and I pray that as a Christian you also hold these convictions: Jesus Christ is very God; He died a sacrificial death because of my sin; He was buried and conquering death, hell and the tomb when He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father from whence He is coming again; now, by faith in Him my sin is forgiven and I am accepted in the Beloved Son of God; and the authority for these truths is the Bible which I have received as the Word of God. Because this is my conviction, I am confident that my sin is forgiven, I am accepted in Him and “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” [see PHILIPPIANS 4:13].

David would plead, just as I plead and just as you must plead,

“Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down!
Touch the mountains so that they smoke!
Flash forth the lightning and scatter them;
send out your arrows and rout them!
Stretch out your hand from on high;
rescue me and deliver me from the many waters,
from the hand of foreigners,
whose mouths speak lies
and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”

I pray that God’s people may be infused with a spirit of confidence. I know from the Word of God that this confidence will be a reality only as we hold the transforming convictions concerning Christ the Lord. This is the reason that John testifies, “Little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming” [1 JOHN 2:28].

John would also write, “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgement, because as he is so also are we in this world” [1 JOHN 4:13-17].

COURAGE IS REVEALED IN CONTENTMENT — At last, in the **NINTH THROUGH THE ELEVENTH VERSES** David has written,

“I will sing a new song to you, O God;
 upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,
who gives victory to kings,
 who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword.
Rescue me and deliver me
 from the hand of foreigners,
whose mouths speak lies
 and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”

Godly convictions create courage in the one holding those convictions; and courage lived out in the crucible of life results in confidence. When we live in confidence, we will experience divine contentment. The courageous individual is a contended individual. Thus, David speaks of his confidence in God’s goodness toward him. He confesses that he is dependent upon God, that he pursues God’s honour; and now he speaks of the contentment he experiences.

Those people who live for this present world can never be satisfied. Tragically, the condition of those estranged from God is described in this statement from Isaiah:

“The wicked are like the tossing sea;
 for it cannot be quiet,
 and its waters toss up mire and dirt.
‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”

[ISAIAH 57:20, 21]

What is true for the godless is equally true for the professed followers of Christ who live as earth-dwellers. There is no peace for the wicked; and there is no contentment for the lost.

The Wise Man has left us this Proverb:

“Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,
 and never satisfied are the eyes of man.”

[PROVERBS 27:20]

What must not be forgotten is that because the wants of fallen people can never be satisfied, there is another truth resulting.

“The leech has two daughters:
 Give and Give.
Three things are never satisfied;
 four never say, ‘Enough’:
Sheol, the barren womb,
 the land never satisfied with water,
 and the fire that never says, ‘Enough.’”

[PROVERBS 30:15, 16]

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Christ Jesus our Risen Head extends the offer of peace to all who will receive Him. Jesus said, “Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” [MATTHEW 11:28-30].

You, too, can become a person marked by courage, courage arising from conviction, courage that is seen in confidence and revealed through contentment. The choice remains—will you continue to be a victim of this dying world? Or will you be a victor resting in the Son of God? You may either continue to struggle, battling against powerful forces that control this present, dying world; or you can rest secure in Him who defeated all the powers of evil.

Paul has penned such a powerful statement in his letter to the Christians of Colossae. “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” [COLOSSIANS 2:8-15]. This is my prayer for you my fellow Christian.

For any who are outside this holy Faith, my words condemn you. It is not because I condemn you; but you condemn yourself so long as you continue in your lost condition. We who follow the Living Son of God have a message of life for you. This Jesus whom we proclaim gave His life as a sacrifice in your place. He took the punishment you deserved so that you need not be condemned by God who gives life. However, He did not remain dead; He conquered death, rising from the tomb and ascending into Heaven. Now, He offers forgiveness of sin, acceptance into the Family of God and freedom to be all that God created you to be.

This, then, is the message we bring. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” That invitation concludes with this divine promise first written long centuries before being repeated, “Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved” [ROMANS 10:9, 10, 13].

Believe and be saved. Do it now. Amen.